



COMMAND, CONTROL,
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INTELLIGENCE

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-6000

90 DEC 2002



MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Changes to the Consolidated Acquisition Reporting System (CARS) for
Major Automated Information Systems (MAIS)

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify you of some changes to CARS regarding MAIS programs that will be effective January 1, 2003. These changes are described in the attachment to this memo and are summarized below.

- The Defense Acquisition Executive Summary (DAES) assessment indicators have been changed.
 - Specifically, there will no longer be a separate set of MAIS assessment indicators.
 - The previous MAIS assessment indicators were different from the MDAP assessment indicators to provide an opportunity to report, in a visible manner, on factors that are unique to MAIS programs.
 - This MAIS-unique information will still be reported, but within a standardized set of DAES assessment indicators.
- The DoD Components will no longer be able to edit the APB fields in CARS APB Module. All APB updates will be made by my office, after the APB change is approved by the Milestone Decision Authority.

These changes were made to better facilitate the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) oversight process through improved automation and process improvement.



Additional guidance can also be obtained from the CARS Users Manual at <http://cars.grci.com/>. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Leslie Knaup, 703-602-2720 x116 or Mr. Schatten Douglas, 703-602-2720 x112.


John R. Landon
Principal Director
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(C3ISR, Space and IT Programs)

Attachment:
As stated

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Attachment

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE CONSOLIDATED ACQUISITION REPORTING SYSTEM (CARS) FOR MAJOR AUTOMATED INFORMATION SYSTEMS (MAIS)

A. MAIS DAES Assessment Indicators. Effective January 1, 2003, there will no longer be a separate set of MAIS assessment indicators. All MAIS Defense Acquisition Executive Summary (DAES) reports are to be submitted using only the latest version of CARS (currently 9.41) that can be downloaded from <http://cars.grci.com/>. Hard copy and prior versions of the DAES reports will not be accepted.

1. Reporting MAIS Assessment Indicators Using the Standard CARS Software.

a. The previous MAIS DAES assessment indicators were different from the MDAP assessment indicators in order to provide an opportunity to report on some factors unique to MAIS programs in a visible manner. It is intended that this MAIS-unique information will still be reported, but within a standardized set of DAES assessment indicators.

b. The relationship between MAIS assessment indicators and the standard DAES indicators is depicted in the table below. Detailed instructions for the assessment indicators are provided at the online CARS Users Manual at <http://cars.grci.com/>. Mapping of the old MAIS DAES data (e.g., Project Risks) will be transparent to the CARS users and will not cause any information loss.

Previous Reported MAIS Indicators	Standard DAES Indicators
Implementation	Performance Characteristics
Test and Evaluation	Test and Evaluation
Requirements Management	Logistics Requirements & Readiness Objectives
Cost Performance	Cost
Funding	Funding
Schedule Performance	Schedule
Contracts	Contracts
	Production*
Management Structure	Management Structure
Interoperability	Interoperability
Project Risks	Whichever indicator that is most closely related to the specific risk(s) being reported**

* Unless the MAIS program includes production of equipment, no assessment is necessary.

**Historical Project Risks data has been transferred to the DAES Section 6.9, "Vulnerability Assessment".

B. Acquisition Program Baseline (APB).

1. Approved APB. Components will no longer be able to edit the approved APB fields in CARS. ACAT IAC Milestone Decision Authority (MDA) approved APBs or changes to the APB are to be submitted to the OASD(C3I) Acquisition Directorate.

2. Forwarding APBs for Review/Approval. Some programs choose to use non-CARS formats for seeking CAE approval of their APBs, which gives additional flexibility to address issues unique to the program that may be difficult to handle within CARS. This practice often works to the benefit of the Department and the program, and should be encouraged where it is appropriate. However, when APBs are sent to OSD for review and approval, the standard CARS format APB is required, in addition to any uniquely formatted APB, to ensure complete understanding of how the program will report against APB parameters.